

NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 21st December 1878.

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Number of copies issued.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
BENGALI.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Bhārat Shramajīvi"	Barāhanagar ...	4,000	
2	"Rājshāhye Sambād"	Rājshāhye ...	.....
3	"Grāmvartā Prakāshikā"	Comercolly ...	200	
4	"Arya Pratibhā"	Bhavanīpore ...	.....
5	"Suhrid"	Calcutta ...	.....
<i>Bi-monthly.</i>				
6	"Cālnā Prakāsh"	Cālnā ...	.....
7	"Hindu Lalanā"	Nawābgunge, Barrack-pore.	.....
8	"Sahayogī"	Bhavanīpore, Calcutta	.....
<i>Weekly.</i>				
9	"Banga Hitaishi"	Bhavanīpore, Calcutta	.....
10	"Bhārat Mihir"	Mymensingh ...	658	12th December 1878.
11	"Bhārat Sanskāra"	Harinābhi ...	.....
12	"Bengal Advertiser"	Ditto ...	.....
13	"Bishva Dūt"	Tāliganj, Calcutta ...	.....
14	"Bardwān Prachārikā"	Bardwān ...	165	
15	"Bardwān Sanjivānī"	Ditto ...	.....	17th ditto.
16	"Dacca Prakāsh"	Dacca ...	400	15th ditto.
17	"Education Gazette"	Hooghly ...	1,168	13th ditto.
18	"Grāmvartā Prakāshikā"	Comercolly ...	200	14th ditto.
19	"Hindu Hitaishini"	Dacca ...	300	14th ditto.
20	"Hindu Ranjikā"	Beauleah, Rājshāhye...	200	11th ditto.
21	"Murshidābād Pratinidhi"	Berhampore ...	.....	13th ditto.
22	"Pratikār"	Ditto ...	235	13th ditto.
23	"Rangpore Dik Prakāsh"	Kākiniā, Rangpore ...	250	
24	"Sādhārānī"	Chinsurah ...	516	15th ditto.
25	"Sahachara"	Calcutta ...	.....	16th ditto.
26	"Sambād Bhāskar"	Ditto ...	.....
27	"Sanjivānī"	Mymensingh ...	.....	16th ditto.
28	"Sulabha Samāchār"	Calcutta ...	5,500	14th ditto.
29	"Soma Prakāsh"	Bhavanīpore ...	700	16th ditto.
<i>Bi-weekly.</i>				
30	"Banga Mitra"	Calcutta ...	4,000	
<i>Tri-weekly.</i>				
31	"Samāchārā Sudhābarshana"	Calcutta ...	.....	17th ditto.
<i>Daily.</i>				
32	"Sambād Prabhākar"	Calcutta ...	550	13th to 19th December 1878.
33	"Sambād Pūrnachandrodaya"	Ditto ...	.....	13th to 17th & 19th December 1878.
34	"Samāchār Chandrikā"	Ditto ...	625	14th to 18th December 1878.
35	"Banga Vidyā Prakāshikā"	Ditto ...	.....
36	"Arya Mihir"	Ditto ...	.....
ENGLISH AND BENGALI.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
37	"Howrah Hitakari"	Bethar, Howrah ...	300	
38	"Murshidābād Patrikā"	Berhampore ...	.....	6th December 1878.
39	"Barisāl Vartābāha"	Barisāl ...	300	
ENGLISH AND URDU.				
40	"Urdu Guide"	Calcutta ...	400	14th ditto.
URDU.				
<i>Bi-monthly.</i>				
41	"Akhbār-ul-Akhiār"	Mazufferpore ...	.....
HINDI.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
42	"Behār Bandhu"	Bankipore, Patna ...	509	18th ditto.
43	"Bhārat Mitra"	Calcutta ...	.....
PERSIAN.				
44	"Jām-Jahān-numā"	Ditto ...	250	13th ditto.

POLITICAL.

BHARAT MIHIR,
December 12th, 1878.

The *Bhārat Mihir*, after briefly sketching the history of Russian progress, says: Conquering kingdom after kingdom, Russia has advanced up to the *Hindu Koosh*, and has almost touched the boundaries of *Afghānistān*, the ruler of which now lies in the dangerous predicament of having his country liable to be overrun by one of the two Powers on either side of it. The *Amir's* fate is sealed, whichever side he may take. Again, the English Empire in India has gradually extended to the *Himalayas*. This has led to ill-feeling between the two Powers, which will, like Vesuvius, sooner or later burst forth into a great flame. Russia too has already had a severe blow from England in the Crimea, which she has not forgotten. The victorious progress of England in the present *Cābul* war will end in the exile of the *Amir* and the extension of the British Empire; and thus will be sown the seeds of evil for the future of the British Government. Some of the Russian papers assert that Russia and *Cābul* will remain silent till England appropriates some portion of *Afghānistān*, when Russia will seize upon *Merv* and other places. Be that as it may, *Cābul* is on the horns of a dilemma. The Russia which is now considered a friend will be ready at the very first opportunity to pierce the breast with the deadly javelin. European policy is based on self-interest. Turkey, when it fell, was pounced upon by vultures who erewhile were silent spectators of the combat. We are thick-headed Bengalis and cannot fathom the intricacies of European politics. The sparks of might and power, wherever they fall, kindle a flame, as they have already done in middle Asia. It is time for *China*, *Thibet* and *Persia* to be on their guard. Though no prophets, we can venture to predict that this part of the earth will be flooded by the tide of Western power.

Russian advances in Asia.

BHARAT MIHIR.

2. Notwithstanding the triumphal progress of Generals Browne and

Wherein does the guilt of the *Amir* consist?

Roberts, the *Bhārat Mihir* observes that the *Amir's* troops, though less than 3,000 in number, have been fighting like heroes.

The *Amir* has not brought this war on himself, for he did not dare challenge the matchless power of the British. Russia then is the real cause of the present war, and she should have been first sought out for punishment. Who can call Russia to account for her conduct towards the *Amir*, and for inducing him to give up the friendship of the English? We wait to see the result of the *Amir's* last reply. England surely does not wish to establish slavery all over the earth. She ought to allow the independence of the *Amir* to remain intact. The possession of *Afghānistān* will be dangerous. Residents at *Cābul*, *Candahar* and *Herat* would serve all the purposes of the English. If the *Amir* consents to this, where then is the necessity for further waste of blood? The *Amir* has been led into his present trouble by the treachery of Russia. May future history not be obliged to depict England and Russia as establishing slavery, instead of independence, throughout Asia.

BHARAT MIHIR.

3. The *Bhārat Mihir* has the following:—Benjamin, the counsellor

The untimely congratulations of the Queen to Lord Lytton.

of our Empress, will not let her rest, as witness the telegram congratulating Lord Lytton on the fall of *Ali Musjid*, &c. There is no harm in the Queen coming prominently before the public, but the telegram might have been delayed a few days, for the English troops have not yet returned after enthroning some new *Mir Jāfir* in the room of *Shere Ali*, and conquering *Candahar*, *Cābul* and *Herat*; nor has the fierce winter of *Cābul* yet passed away. The English have not yet really encountered the not easily conquered *Afghān* army. These repeated untimely congratulations do not look well.

4. Referring to the Queen's speech and that part of the Secretary of

Probability of no taxation on account of the *Cábul* war.

State's announcement, in which he said there would still be a surplus of 50 *lakhs* after payment of the expenses of the *Cábul* war, the

Education Gazette observes that the people of India may not only not expect any fresh taxation during the ensuing year, but may hope to see the license tax withdrawn altogether.

EDUCATION GAZETTE,
December 15th, 1878.

5. Russia, by observing neutrality now, remarks the *Samáchara*

The probable reasons for Russia's neutrality in the present *Cábul* war.

Chandriká, will be able ultimately to accomplish three purposes: First, if the *Amír* should be defeated, Russia will easily be

able to annex a small portion of *Afghánistán*. Secondly, England and Russia being natural enemies, will not sit as silent spectators, but will, under the guise and mark of friendship, interpose difficulties of one kind or another in the settlement of *Cábul* affairs. Thirdly, if the main object of Russia be to seize India, then, whether at the conclusion of the war she be able to accomplish her object or not, it will be easy for her to make the attempt; for a lion, after the fatigue of hunting and capturing even an ordinary deer, feels afraid to encounter an elephant.

SAMACHARA
CHANDRIKA,
December 14th, 1878.

6. Referring to the time and money spent in collecting an army

Proposal to reduce the feudatory Princes to the status of zamindars.

of 29,000 men for the *Afghán* campaign, the *Sangbád Púrnochandrodaya* remarks that

the proposal of some Englishmen to do away with the armies of the native feudatories, and reduce the Princes themselves to the status of *zamindárs*, would necessitate an addition of one *lakh* of troops to protect India. The Princes are aiding in the present war with men, money, and arms, and bearing every expense themselves, and they have even placed themselves and their treasuries at the disposal of Government. It is to be regretted that, notwithstanding this, Europeans in India do not look with favour on the natives. Let the present gratitude and sympathy of the Native Princes towards Government be remembered. It is not right at such a time that evil-disposed persons should irritate these feudatories.

SANGBAD PURNO-
CHANDRODAYA,
December 14th, 1878.

7. The *Sádháraní* notices the favourable reports of the progress of

Progress of the *Afghán* war.

the war, and of the British advance towards *Cábul*, even in this very cold season. In

the affair at *Peswár* the *Afgháns* showed some pluck. The final victory of the British troops is, however, assured, and the Queen did quite right in forwarding the recent congratulatory telegram. Of one thing we are very glad, and that is, our native army has fought bravely and loyally for the English. All this has changed the mind of the *Amír*, who, we believed from the very first, was disinclined to fight, for he has been unprepared. Held between Russia and England, he is in an awkward dilemma. Hopeless of material aid from Russia, he has written a letter to the Viceroy dated the 19th November. We trust Government will accept it, and end the war and save enormous expense, especially as it is India that is threatened with the burden of the war expenditure. England might be satisfied with the control or guardianship of *Afghánistán*. The *Amír* may also not be coerced into allowing Residents at *Herat*, *Candahar*, and *Cábul* to watch Central Asian affairs. The *Czar* has kept aloof from all interference in *Afghánistán*; then what hope has the *Amír*? He must be a fool if he thinks he can oppose the British. Better for him at once to enter into treaty with our Government.

SADHARANI,
December 15th, 1878.

8. The *Sahachara* informs its readers that the British Indian Associa-

The *Cábul* war and its cost.

tion have despatched a telegram to the London Committee, composed of Messrs. Gladstone

SAHACHARA,
December 16th, 1878.

and Forsyth, Lords Lawrence and Northbrook, and others, anent the contemplated saddling of war costs on India in its present famished condition, with an empty exchequer. It was when the Indian Government succeeded in persuading England that the *Afghán* war was a necessity, that the latter agreed to bear a portion of the expense. Now that the war has turned out to be unnecessary, the Cabinet has resolved to throw the entire cost on India. It has been shown that the Russian invasion was but a scare, and that it was not really believed in. Where then is India's fault, or what profit is she to derive from the war, that the cost of it is to be borne by her? The annexation of rocky *Afghánistán* may be a dire necessity, as asserted by Lord Salisbury; but clearly it will yield no profit. People wish to know why it should be occupied. The fact is that England is not afraid of any Russian invasion: what she really wishes is to get as near as possible to Russia in Central Asia. Who then ought to defray the expenses of the war? England or India? Has Lord Lytton's advent to this country been with a view to ruin it?

SAHACHARA,
December 16th, 1878.

9. On the publication of the correspondence which has passed between the Government of India and the *Amír*, the hitherto hidden policy, says the *Sahachara*, of our rulers has been disclosed. From this our readers will be able to see, that Lord Lytton's treatment of the *Amír* was outwardly one thing, but secretly quite another. The so-called friendly mission to *Cábul* was proposed with a view to deprive the *Amír* of his independence. He knew what the honeyed words of the Viceroy's letter implied, and could not venture to receive the Embassy. We would ask the truth and sincerity-loving English whether such a mission, which contemplated the absorption of a portion of the *Amír's* territory and his reduction to the position of a tributary of our Government, could be called one of friendship? Sir Neville Chamberlain's conduct in trying to get the Afridis to accompany him through the Pass, was nothing more than bribing the paid servants of the *Amír*. The end of it was that the contemptible jackal of an *Amír* insulted the British Lion, and was therefore to be considered an enemy. We ask—Where does the fault rest? Lord Lytton's scheme miscarried through the wisdom of the uncivilized *Amír*. England, if it but knew all, would not approve of the treacherous policy of Lord Lytton; who, in order to carry out a purpose of his own, has in a manner deceived the *Amír*, the old-standing friend of the English. Having secured truth-devoted England in his net of deceit, he has found a convenient opportunity for carrying out his own wishes. *Afghánistán*, as a rocky country, will be useless to the English. Overtaxed India will have to pay the cost of the war, notwithstanding the efforts of Messrs. Gladstone and Fawcett to the contrary. We appeal to the Sovereign of truth-loving Englishmen to read the letter of the Viceroy, and see how that love of truth is marred. You uncivilized *Muhammadans*, peruse the letter, and see how the *Amír* has taken his stand altogether upon the truth. Every true Englishman will, we doubt not, on seeing this affair clearly, hang down his head with shame. We are Bengalis and have many faults, yet we would be ashamed of such a double-handed transaction. We have often found fault with the *Amír* and predicted his fall, but we now see he is being innocently murdered. Lord Lytton and his master, Lord Beaconsfield, are to blame for laying the trap into which the *Amír* has fallen. Knowing as we do that it is the intention of our Government to reduce the *Amír* to the condition of a tributary, we can understand all the doings of the Indian Government to that end. We may tell our readers that the English wish to make their North-Western Frontier absolutely secure, although it is already so, as many wise politicians have asserted. For this purpose many schemes have been set agoing, which have at last led to war, and to an entrance

into *Afghánistán*. It is left to civilized nations to judge of the justice or otherwise of the present war, which must end in the *Amir's* consenting to become a tributary of the British Government.

10. The *Som Prakásha*, which had prided itself in having familiarized itself with European, but especially English, politics, fails to comprehend the policy of the Russians in the Russo-Turkish war and of the English in the present *Cábul* war. The action of England in the former tallies with the part Russia is playing in the latter. *Cábul*, like *Turkey*, has fallen under the fascination of Russia. It is not right to trust Europe despite its civilization and Christianity, so long as it wields sovereign power. *Æsop's* old story of the wolf and lamb is reproduced in the case of Russia and the *Amir*. The latter did not act rightly in placing confidence in Russia. The only hope for the *Amir* is in humbling himself to the English, though we fear the latter are not in a frame of mind to be gracious to him, for they are bent on taking *Cábul*. Humiliation and repentance, followed by forgiveness, do not form part of the policy of the present time. The English may overlook the *Amir's* fault, but they will keep him under their power by placing Residents in his country, and make him submit to every condition that may be imposed on him. We had forgotten, however, to ask if the *Amir* has anything like a Cyprus to give the Russians in return for their kindness and friendship. It must be borne in mind that Russia is highly civilized and Christian, and will not fail to get some large tract of country from *Afghánistán*. The English have given various reasons to prove that they have been insulted by the *Amir*; but his reply of the 19th November is a very humble one, and betrays nothing of the insolence with which he has been credited by the English. We ask our rulers to declare, without dissimulation, whether the location of a Resident does not involve loss of dependence in the case of our Native Princes here? Is the *Amir* such an idiot as not to know the history of *Barodá* and the Resident? The supplication and humility of the *Amir's* letter ought to have broken the hardest heart.

SOM PRAKASHA,
December 16th, 1878.

11. The *Som Prakásha* says that the Indian and English Governments have combined to throw the burden of the war expenses on India. This proceeding is in keeping with the cause of the war itself. Like the *dhobie's* ass, India, it seems, can bear any burden. An innocent independent ruler is to lose his independence because of Russia's intention to invade India. Russia is the culprit, but the *Amir* must be the sufferer. England will not stay the war till she has taken firm hold of *Cábul* and become supreme there, as the State Secretary has said. We have nothing to say as to the position the *Amir* may eventually assume, though we are grieved to see an innocent person punished. This war is intended to subserve English interests, and, such being the case, it grieves us to think that India must bear the cost. Our rulers, by means of their wand, can at one moment exhibit India as rich, and the next as poor. Lord Mayo showed a deficit and imposed the income tax. Lord Northbrook found a surplus and removed the tax. Praised be the fiscal administration and the policy of our rulers! The very Disraeli who now occupies the first place in England, and fascinates the English, representing India as affluent, stated in 1873-74 that England was rich, and ought, out of her vast surplus, to aid the famine-stricken population of almost insolvent India, thus giving proof of her munificence and charity. Has India in the short space of four years become so prosperous as to be able easily to pay for the *Cábul* war? Is it false to assert that India's debt will gradually increase till it is 2,34,00,00,000? Will then that India, which has so vast a load of debt on her head, and whose very

SOM PRAKASHA.

entrails are being wrenched out to pay the interest only, be able with a smile to discharge the cost of the Afghán war?

SANGSAD PUNA-
CHANDRODAYA,
December 17th, 1878.

12. The *Sangbád Púrnochandrodaya* says, that the English papers began to shriek and hurl abuse at the Russians when their Commander-in-Chief prevented correspondents from sending war news. The transmission of war news from the frontier has been now prohibited by our Government. No one is bold enough to complain or object. To dare to write against this proceeding would perhaps bring down another Act upon us.

MURSHIDABAD
PATRIKA,
December 6th, 1878.

13. The *Murshidábád Patriká* gives publicity to a rumour to the effect, that "correct intelligence of the *Cábul* war is not published, and that portion which does appear is not true." On this the writer remarks that, if there be any truth in this rumour, it is not good for the Government to keep the news a secret; let this mistake be at once mended. Flattery was no doubt much liked by our *Muhammadan* rulers, and now it seems that the powerful, wise, and intelligent English in India are amenable to it. They do not mind to have their faults exposed in their own country, but they are averse to having them brought to light in India. This is what led to the passing of Act IX, and to the consequent suppression of the truth by the Native Press. The vernacular papers may perhaps give an account of a murder by a European, but they will take care to sweeten the concluding part of the article. Act IX has made panegyrists of our Editors. We are surprised that our English Government does not understand that the country where an Act like Act IX is in force, and where flattery prevails, cannot be administered well. No one can tell where there may not be a smouldering fire.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

HINDU RANJIKÁ,
December 11th, 1878.

14. *Bengal*, says the *Hindu Ranjiká*, has yielded the largest stamp revenue in all India during the past official year, and no doubt rulers are rejoiced to see their treasury thus filled. It, however, depresses our spirits, because this love of litigation betokens gradual ruin to our country. Many think this is a sign of advancing civilization: if this conclusion be correct, we would prefer to be the perpetual slaves of barbarians. It seems that the present generation have forsaken their ancient laws, and dropped the customs, &c. of their forefathers, to run after and follow English civilization in every shape, even to the matter of attire. Our forefathers were, however, more honest in their transactions, and did not despoil the poor and the unprotected by such fraudulent litigation as that carried on in the present day, or by perjury and subornation of perjury in courts of justice, they passing off as good and upright men so long as they were not detected.

HINDU RANJIKÁ.

15. Mr. Allan, the District Judge, has given out, says the *Hindu Ranjiká*, that *Pabná* will shortly be made into a district where the chief magisterial and judicial officers will be located. This arrangement will be very convenient, so far as travelling and expense go, for the residents of the towns of *Pabná*, *Sháhzádpore*, *Serájganj*, and *Bagurá*, who formerly had to go to *Rámpore Beaulah* for their cases. The *Rájsháhye* district will no doubt become smaller, and the number of cases instituted there, most of which come from the above places, will be very small, and it will not be able to meet its own expenses and must dwindle down into an unimportant district. Our Lieutenant-Governor ought to try and preserve its former greatness by taking away *Maldah* from *Dinágapore* and placing it under *Rájsháhye*. This would be a convenience to the residents of *Maldah* in the conduct

of their cases. *Dinágépore* is a very large district and will not feel the loss of *Maldah*.

16. The *Bhárat Mihir* acknowledges the concession made, after such a long time, to the Native Press by the Government of India, at the instance of the Press Commissioner. Would it not be as well, remarks the writer, if the Bengal Government followed the good example? But who is there that, like Mr. Lethbridge, would advise Sir Ashley Eden in the matter? Mr. Eden cannot of his own motion act generously towards the Native Press. We do not know how his mind came to be poisoned against our Press.

BHARAT MIHIR,
December 12th, 1878.

17. The *Murshidábád Pratinidhi* expresses its approbation of Sir Ashley Eden's order to plant fruit-trees by the wayside, from the sale of whose fruit the cost of keeping the roads may be defrayed.

Planting of fruit-trees by the road-side.

MURSHIDABAD
PRATINIDHI,
December 13th, 1878.

If this be the case, remarks the writer, then why not take off the road-cess? There is no doubt that, not only will such trees shelter the wearied traveller during his short repose under the shade, but the sale of the fruit will yield an income which, as our Lieutenant-Governor says, might go towards defraying the expenses connected with the road. But trees like the *Ficus Indica* or *Teak* will not answer this purpose. The great Mr. Eden has shown much wisdom in passing such an order, the results of which he hopes to see regularly set out in the Annual Report. We trust this scheme of his will not vanish into thin air.

18. The *Hindu Hitaishini* calls upon the superior police officials to look more carefully after constables of the *Dacca* Police, who are a negligent lot, and unless punished will not mend. The inspectors and sub-inspectors are almost all of them good and able men, but not so the head-constables and constables, the majority of whom are bad. We like to see active and expert policemen. *Bábu Ráj Kumár*, head-constable of the outpost at *Narasinghadi*, may be held up as an instance of a good policeman. The *barkandâzes* of the old police system were better men than the present constables, amongst whom many bad characters are to be found. The higher officers of police are often obstructed in their work by the stupidity of the lower grade of policemen.

HINDU HITAIISHINI,
December 14th, 1878.

19. The *Urdu Guide* says that it has all along been opposed to an elective municipal system for the town, even when the draft Bill was published and under consideration of the legislature. The evils this paper predicted as to people being unable to live in Calcutta or carry on their trade here, &c., have come to pass. We have now, as the result of the Bill passing into law, a set of inexperienced men, who went about from door to door collecting votes. Calcutta was not ripe for such a system, ignorant as most of its landholders are of the meaning and importance of a vote or an election. It is far different with the towns and cities of Europe, whose peoples know how to select and elect their Municipal Commissioners. We have a very sharp, intelligent and quick-sighted Lieutenant-Governor now, so that there is some prospect of our having yet a good Municipality for the town. It is difficult to get round him, for he is very quick of perception. His fitness for his office is shewn in the selections he has made of members for his Legislative Council. Mr. J. O'Kinealy, M.A., Barrister-at-Law, who will shortly be elevated to the Viceroy's Council; *Bábu Kristodás Pál*, who has been re-appointed and two able *Muhammadans*. Apart from this, he has appointed the Hon'ble *Maulvi Syed Amir Ali*, Barrister-at-Law, as Magistrate of Police

The elective municipal system in Calcutta and its results.

URDU GUIDE,
December 14th, 1878.

in preference to *Maulvi Abdul Latif*, who could not tackle an English Barrister, who has held only a junior scholarship certificate, and who knows nothing of Arabic. The Editor, in concluding his article, makes several extracts from the Resolution of the Lieutenant-Governor, exposing the faults and failings of the Municipal Commissioners, as shewn by their own Report. It may therefore be inferred that if further search or examination were made, many more defects would appear. It is to be hoped that the present Chairman, Mr. Souttar, will look attentively into the affairs of the Municipality, and make some new arrangements whereby all existing evils complained of may be wholly removed.

DACCA PRAKASH,
December 15th, 1878.

20. The *Dacca Prakasha* has heard complaints, that the License Tax is being imposed on laborers and coolies (porters), as also on all classes of traders, with-

out distinction. The Government has made a mistake in treating the ordinary petty trader in the same way as the big *mahajan* or merchant, who carries on a flourishing export business in these times of famine pressure. It is unwise to place the assessment of incomes in the hands of ill-paid assessors, or village *panchayats* composed of men of no good report. Great oppression has been the result. We pray that petty traders be exempted; also that other and better means than those now employed be adopted for making the assessments. Let the facilities for appeal be extended and made less expensive. We agree with our contemporary, the *Sulabha Samachara*, in its recommendation that attestations and verifications on oath, as in the case of the income tax, should be adopted.

DACCA PRAKASH.

21. The *Dacca Prakasha* upholds the action taken by Government in instituting enquiries as to counterfeit coin, to which its attention was first drawn by the

large quantity of spurious money collected at the Government treasuries of *Mymensingh*, *Dacca* and other districts. A late case of coiners in *Mymensingh* was brought to light by *Babu Ramkumar Ghosh* of the Reserve Police, but was dismissed for want of sufficient evidence. It is rumoured in *Dacca* that certain *poddars* (money-changers) have become rich in the course of a night. This is confirmed by the fact that *Bhagavan Chandra Pal De*, a former sub-inspector of police, has arrested a person in the act of coining eight-anna pieces. Let Government put the *Dacca* officers and the police especially on the track. The writer cites a case occurring two months ago, in which a coiner was detected, convicted and sentenced to five years' imprisonment at the instance of *Babu Shyama Charan*, a very efficient and energetic member of the *Dacca* Police Force. Our regret is that so able an officer still remains without promotion. To reward him will serve as an incentive to other police officers to imitate his good example.

BEHAR BANDHU,
December 18th, 1878.

22. *Patna*, says the *Behar Bandhu*, is fortunate in possessing an Englishman like Mr. Toynbee at such a time.

His kindness and compassion more than out-balance the oppression and tyranny of the assessors. People say that *Patna* never before had so just and upright a Magistrate as Mr. Toynbee. May God grant him long life and prosperity.

SANGBAD
PRABHAKARA,
December 18th, 1878.

23. The *Sangbad Prabhakara* announces Sir Ashley Eden's return from the genial and mild breezes of *Darjeeling*, where his time has been spent in idleness. He has now begun to show signs of activity, for since his arrival he has attended the performance of *Richieu* at the Corinthian Theatre, has been to Wilson's Circus and president at a distribution of prizes, and is giving evening parties and launching thunderbolts at our city Municipality. These activities

have served to tranquilize his mind. He, however, neglects one weighty matter. He need not be disturbed by any of the questions which agitate the minds of the Viceroy and the Governors of Madras and Bombay. We are not going to speak of the *Afghán* war, or even of the distressed condition of the starving sixty millions of *Bengalis*, though these might well occupy his attention; but we want to call his attention to the epidemic fever which is depopulating this province. There are over 500 deaths weekly in this city, where the mortality is always great, just before the setting in of the cold season. In the *mafussal*, deaths are not limited to seasons, but are constantly occurring in every village. It is to Calcutta therefore, that attention should be invited. The Lieutenant-Governor has written many resolutions without any result: one of these strictly enjoined local officials to look into the matter of fevers; but nothing has been done. The *Calcutta Gazette* publishes accounts of deaths from the epidemic fever which is raging all over Bengal, but Mr. Eden is silent. One word of a Cabinet Minister disposed of a crore of rupees for the *Afghán* war, but there are no resources available for starving and dying people. We implore Mr. Eden to stay the nectar of his resolutions and provide medicine for the fever-stricken people. These commissions and resolutions of his do not contribute to our peace of mind: we want real help.

EDUCATION.

24. *Ambikácharan Ghosh* writing to the *Som Prakásha* from *Jhaudángá*, in *Vinodpur*, under date the 25th *Kártik*,

SOM PRAKASH,
December 16th, 1878.

Advancing civilization among the
Bengalis.

denies that the hundreds of graduates passing through the University are increasing the glory and honor of the *Bengalis*, and maintains that the new works of poetry and fiction, and the dramas issuing from the Press, are not improving Bengali literature, and that the country is not deriving any great good from female education. His reasons are, first, that modern Bengali works are based on English ideas, and a number of English words are introduced. This can well be evident from a comparison of the style of Bengali works with that of translations from the *Sanskrit*. Our educated youth generally use English in conversation, and when perchance they have to speak in their mother tongue, 99 out of 100 words are English. All this would not have occurred had there been a greater taste for *Sanskrita*. Secondly, our women have no doubt learnt to read and write, to write books, devote themselves to their husbands, and appreciate conjugal affection. They have become independent, and, forsaking the kitchen, have learnt to travel. This independence has led them to read dramas and novels, and thus their taste has become vitiated. Thirdly, in religious matters, a new class of what we would call animals, has come into existence, for they are neither Hindus, Christians, nor *Bráhmós*. Fourthly, our educated young men are in the habit of referring to their fathers as if they were gardeners or common *sarkárs* and are content in their letters to address them as "my dear father." These favoured children of the English goddess of learning condemn their wives because they do not go into English society or know English. The writer thus sums up the progress made by the Bengali: He has learnt to read and write English and to play the piano as the English do. The English call us *Bábus*. We use coats, hats, sticks, carriages drawn by two horses, lavender, pomatum, eau-de-cologne and other perfumes. At dinner we have excellent Exshaw, which entrances us with heavenly delight. The men who declare they are members of the Temperance Society call for grog twenty times a day. This then is our boasted advancement,—to copy the customs and habits of the English, to whom we are subject. When will the dawn of enlightenment be beheld in this land? God alone can answer this question.

SAHACHARA,
December 16th, 1878.

25. The *Sahachara* complains of the bad management shown in the conduct of the University Entrance and First Arts Examinations this year. Ever since the departure of Mr. Sutcliffe, who always conducted these things admirably, matters have been becoming worse. Mr. Tawney is a very quiet man and was absent on sick leave, leaving Mr. Nash, a Professor, a novice in such matters, to preside at the examinations. Papers were given out irregularly as to time. Mr. Nash acted wrongly altogether in dismissing from the hall, examinees who wished to go for a little while to obey calls of nature.

SAHACHARA.

26. The *Sahachara* gratefully acknowledges the many improvements introduced into the Educational Service by Mr. Croft, but desires to note certain defects. For instance, inferior officers have now been graded as far as Rs. 50, but those earning below that sum are left out in the cold. The whole Department should be treated alike. Mr. Croft, as an Inspector, should have known the difficulty which teachers on Rs. 10 or 15 have in supporting themselves. What sin have these poor men to expiate on account of which they are treated in this way? This matter may yet be remedied. Next, in the matter of the Assistant Inspectors recently appointed, though we acknowledge them to be excellent men, we regret to see men of longer standing and of good service, and therefore with better claims, passed over. For instance, *Bábu Charu Chandra Chatterji* and *Pandit Mádhara Chandra Tarkasiddhanta*, Deputy Inspectors of *Bánkura* and *Howrah* respectively, have been overlooked, though they are men of long standing and of good service. We do not believe this is an intentional omission, nor do we think that *Bhúdeva Bábu*, with his experience and knowledge, would have superseded *Charu Bábu* by *Haramohan Bábu*: he must have made this mistake in the multiplicity of business. The former, who is higher and of longer service than the latter, may lose heart in his work by this oversight. This mistake may yet be remedied. Again, *Bábu Taraknath Sen*, Deputy Inspector of *Faridpore*, who has for 20 years served with credit, has been disappointed in the Chittagong Assistant Inspectorship. We do not mean to disparage *Kailash Bábu*, nor do we disapprove of his promotion; but the Director ought to re-consider this matter. In conclusion, we would draw Mr. Garrett's attention to the way in which Sub-Inspector *Bábu Dwárkánáth Banerji* has been hitherto neglected. There are not many men as worthy and able as he is. We wish justice to be done him.

FAMINE.

MURSHIDABAD
PATRIKA,
December 6th, 1878.

27. Rice, *dál* (split peas), salt, oil, vegetables, fish, milk, and ghee (clarified butter) formed the staple food of Bengalis, remarks the *Murshidábád Patriká*, whilst the inferior kinds of pulse and *dál* were rigidly excluded from diet and were used only in *shrádhs* (mourning or funeral obsequies). This food, people are now but too glad to get, selling though it is at 5 and 6 seers per rupee. The better kinds of *dál* are scarcely to be had in the market. Small fish is procurable at very high prices, and is beyond the reach of the poor, who are becoming worn out from want of food.

SOM PRAKASH,
December 16th, 1878.

28. The *Khámárgáchí* correspondent of the *Som Prakásha* states that sickness is very prevalent in the place. Scarcely a house has been left unvisited. What some persons had laid up for future famine and distress has been spent in medicines; others, who have no means, throw themselves on the

mercy of God. The paddy crop has not been a very good one. *Brinjáls*, which used to sell at 80 for the pice, are now selling at one for the pice. *Pulse* of all kinds has risen one and a half times as high again as rice. The middle classes are suffering much. To these sufferings is now added the license tax, whilst the *Cábul* war costs are hanging over our heads and will fall one day and crush every one. This is not right on the part of England. It behoved the Government of India to relieve the distress of this country with open hands, and not to involve itself in war.

29. A correspondent writes to the *Som Prakásha* from *Nágarpur*, that the price of rice has fallen somewhat. That

SOM PRAKASH,
December 16th, 1878.

Accounts from *Nágarpur*.

which sold at 9 and 10 seers before, can now be had at 12 and 13 seers. The condition of the *rabbi* crop, consisting of peas, pulse and mustard, is not good. Owing to the late cloudy weather, a kind of insect has appeared in the mustard. The recent floods injured the crop, and now the *rabbi* is perishing.

LOCAL.

30. The *Hindu Ranjiká* in its local columns states that, owing to the

HINDU RANJIKÁ,
December 11th, 1878.

Complaints about the slaughter-houses located near *Rámpore Beauleah* on the *Padmá*, &c.

formation of a *char* in the river *Padmá*, the stream near *Rámpore Beauleah* has become sluggish. The place is rendered unhealthy by the slaughter-houses located near the banks, where the bones and putrid flesh of slain cattle are thrown about. The *dhobies*, too, washing their clothes here, pollute the river water. The slaughter-houses should be removed to *Kádirganj* on the north of *Rámpore Beauleah*, and *dhobies* should be sent to the eastern part of the town.

31. The *Sangbád Purnachandrodaya* notices that the order prohibit-

SANGBÁD PURNA-
CHANDRODAYA,
December 14th, 1878.

Casting of dead bodies into the river *Burigangá*.

ing the throwing of dead bodies into the river was intended to benefit the people, but that it does not seem to be acted on, as dead bodies are occasionally seen floating down the *Burigangá*. It is said that all corpses are taken to the place appointed for cremation, but that the bodies of such as have no relatives are cast half-burnt into the river. This is not proper, and the authorities should look to it.

32. The *Sulabh Samáchára* enquires why several of the public roads

SULABH SAMACHARA,
December 14th, 1878.

Roads in Calcutta left unwatered.

in Calcutta are left unwatered. The roads in *Méchhuá Bazár* and College Square East are left completely unwatered and abound with dust. Is there no one to throw a drop of water on them?

33. An anonymous correspondent writing to the *Murshidábád*

MURSHIDABAD
PRATINIDHI,
December 13th, 1878.

Accounts from *Bargrá*m.

Pratinidhi from *Bargrá*m, under date the 15th *Agrahayan*, says that, with a good paddy crop, even better than the past year, the price of food-grains still continues dear, owing to the large purchases being made for Government, and the large exportations of both paddy and rice by local *mahájans*. The *rabbi* crop is not a very good one. Our pleasant hopes have vanished, and unless exportation is stopped, the price of rice will not fall. The want of a bridge at the *Bargrá*m *ghát* is greatly felt. Carters conveying grain across are greatly inconvenienced, as only five or six carts can get across in the course of a day. Thieves in the *Bargrá*m plain have caused great fear to travellers passing across it by day or night. They keep themselves concealed in a body in the adjoining paddy-fields, and then suddenly pounce upon and plunder unwary travellers.

EDUCATION GAZETTE,
December 13th, 1878.

34. The *Cuttack* correspondent of the *Education Gazette* writes, without date, that the weather has been very cloudy for some days past, and that rain has commenced falling again. No signs of the cold weather yet. Cholera has commenced making its appearance. Rice is still selling at Rs. 5 a maund.

Accounts from *Cuttack*.

EDUCATION GAZETTE.

35. A correspondent writes without date to this paper, complaining of the prevalence of epidemic fever in *Janáí*, *Baksá*, and the neighbouring villages. Scarcely a family is to be found, some member of which is not prostrated with it. Many of the people have fled to Calcutta. The already famishing poor are suffering severely from the ravages of the fever, and have no means to provide a remedy. The rich, of whom there are enough in the principal village of *Janáí*, should establish a charitable dispensary here; but they are not likely to do this. The *Hooghly* Collector should call a meeting of the rich *zamindárs* and get them to subscribe for a charitable dispensary, as he did in the case of the opening up of the *Káná Nadi*.

Fever in *Janáí*, *Baksá*, and neighbouring places.

EDUCATION GAZETTE.

36. The country which our late worthy Magistrate, Mr. Harrison, described as a garden, is, says a correspondent, being devastated by baboons. The tract referred to lies between the *Shilai* and *Kansai* streams. Fine and useful trees and gardens have been destroyed and laid waste; the thatched roofs of the poor are being pulled away, and above all, the mulberry trees kept for feeding silkworms are being destroyed. The number of baboons has so increased that they have become bold enough to enter the open market and plunder the vegetables exhibited for sale. The people are unable to do anything, and must ask the aid of Government. The Magistrate of *Midnapore* and the Deputy Magistrate of *Ghatál* should, at the expense of municipal funds, exterminate these baboons and restore tranquility to the country.

Baboons in *Midnapore*.

SOM PRAKASHA,
December 16th, 1878.

37. The *Chandernagore* correspondent of the *Som Prakásha*, writing without date, says that the weather has not yet (December) become cold. Fever is the consequence. A new disease has appeared; the feet suddenly begin to swell, fever intervenes for a day or two, and the patient dies. If this sickness prevails here for a couple of months longer, the place will become depopulated. Can the poor be expected to survive, when in their present state they are scarcely able to provide a meal? Then they must also buy medicines.

Accounts from *Chandernagore*.

SANGBAD PURNA-
CHANDRODAYA,
December 14th, 1878.

38. The *Sangbád Púrnachandrodaya* complains of the dead bodies of cows, snakes, rats, monkeys, cats and dogs being left exposed by the servants of the Municipality near the National Theatre in Beadon Street. The offensive smell is injurious to the health of the residents. Has the Chairman sanctioned such a proceeding, or is all this done behind his back? Would there be any objection to these accumulations being made in Chowringhee?

Municipal servants leaving dead animals on the public roads.

BARDWAN SANJIVANI,
December 17th, 1878.

39. The *Bárdwan Sanjivani* draws the attention of the Municipality to the principal thoroughfare in *Tejganj*, the greater part of which sadly needs to be repaired.

The main road in *Tejganj*.

BARDWAN SANJIVANI.

40. A *Jamálpore* correspondent of this paper, writes that the cold weather has now fully set in, and that fever has greatly abated. Although the price of food has fallen, beggars are on the increase. Excepting rice, all other articles remain steady. The present year's crop is good, but exportations are more active.

Accounts from *Jamálpore*.

MISCELLANEOUS.

41. A correspondent, who calls himself a clerk, writes to the *Pratikāra* deprecating the clamour of the vernacular newspapers anent the unprofitableness of the *Cábul* war. At all events it will be good for us *Bengali Keránis* (clerks), as no Englishman will trouble himself to cross oceans merely to earn Rs. 40 or 50 a month. Let those who wish take the higher places. The mouth waters and the head swims at the thought that we shall be able to enjoy the delicious fruits of *Cábul*. Again, in *Afghánistán* there will be no one to call our talk *China Bazar* English; for we shall be free to speak whatever we know of the English language, and we shall be held in esteem for our knowledge. We shall be in the same category with the *Afgháns*, and as both will be subject races, we shall not be taunted by them on this score, as we are here: there will arise a fellow-feeling between us and them, alike in poverty and prosperity. We shall be able to move among the *Afgháns* who do not know English, and then, oh heavens! our pleasure will know no bounds. Imagine also the fine stories we shall have to relate, whether true or false, or both in measure, when we return to our homes during the holidays. We never dreamt that there was such pleasure and comfort in store for unfortunates like ourselves. *Ali Masjid* has fallen: why do not the *Afgháns* run away altogether instead of persisting in holding their ground and standing in the way of our happiness?

PRATIKARA,
December 13th, 1878.

42. The *Samachara Sudhábarshana*, a tri-weekly Bengali paper published at the *Sádháraní* Press, Calcutta, has during this week for the first time been sent to this office. The number received is marked 72 of the 25th volume. It contains nothing of importance.

SAMACHARA
SUDHABARSHANA,
December 17th, 1878.

43. In announcing to its readers the death of the Princess Alice, the *Sahachara* expresses its grief at the affliction caused to the Queen by the death of a member of the Royal Family after so many years. Her Majesty had in a manner retired from worldly affairs after the death of Her Royal Consort. It has now pleased God again to afflict her. Let Her Majesty know that all India sympathizes with her in her sorrow.

SAHACHARA,
December 16th, 1878.

44. In announcing to its readers the death of the Princess Alice, the *Sangbád Púrnachandrodaya* adds that all India with one heart and mind sympathizes with the Empress in this her great sorrow. Our prayer is that, the spirit of the deceased Princess may enjoy peace and happiness throughout eternity.

SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
December 18th, 1878.

45. The *Behár Bandhu* notices the departure of two Calcutta *Marwáris* by the P and O Co's steamer for China, with the view of opening a house of agency there. True it is, remarks the writer, that the *Marwáris* are, as a race, men without education; yet in mercantile transactions they can cut off the ears of the English (*i.e.* surpass them). Will the people of *Behár* go on wasting their days in slavery and ploughing?

BEHAR BANDHU,
December 18th, 1878.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 21st December 1878.

ROBERT ROBINSON,
Offg. Bengali Translator.

MISCELLANEOUS

A correspondent who writes to the Boston
Globe from New York, in reference to the
report of the committee on the subject of
the proposed amendment to the constitution
of the United States, says that the
committee have decided to report in favor
of the amendment, and that they will
recommend its adoption by the people.

The committee also report that they
have received many expressions of
sympathy for the amendment, and
that they are confident of its success.

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